

SECRET **EYES ONLY**

OLC 71-2020

18 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate
Appropriations Committee, Regarding Cuts in the
Defense Appropriations Bill

25X1A 1. In a very brief conversation this afternoon, Bill Woodruff advised me regarding action taken by the Defense Subcommittee this morning of interest to us. The total cut made in the intelligence community budget is [REDACTED] A breakdown of this figure is contained in a separate document. Woodruff commented that the accurate figure for the cuts made by the House Appropriations Committee should be [REDACTED] million because of the duplication in certain items in the original House figure.

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2. Mr. Woodruff also told me that last night he received a call from Senator Symington asking him to provide the Senator with the figures on the intelligence budget. Woodruff told the Senator he could not give him these figures. The Senator then asked if he knew the figure and Woodruff acknowledged that he did. Symington again asked him for the figure and Woodruff again refused, but said he would like to explain why. He told the Senator that some years ago Senator Russell told him he wanted to go into the intelligence community budget in more detail but had instructed him in very precise terms that this information was to be made available only to members of the CIA Subcommittee (now the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee). Woodruff told Senator Symington that Senator Russell had never revoked these instructions and, in fact, they had been reinforced recently by Senator Ellender. Senator Symington said, "I am a member of the Defense Subcommittee, am I not?" and Woodruff said he was. (He is an ex officio member of the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations Committee by virtue of his seniority on the Senate Armed Services Committee.) Senator Symington ended the conversation and thanked him for the information.

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3. In the executive session of the Defense Subcommittee this morning, at which the intelligence budget was taken up, Senator Symington asked Chairman Ellender to provide him with the figures on the intelligence budget. Senator Ellender refused. Senator Symington said he was not asking that this figure be made available to other Senators but said he felt that as a member of the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee he was entitled to it. Senator Ellender again refused. He mentioned that only this morning there had been a leak of a Subcommittee decision on the withdrawal of troops from Europe and cited this as an example of what happened when too many people had sensitive information. Senator Symington declared that he had not made the leak. At this juncture Senator Bible asked the Chairman if it was reasonable to assume that as Chairman of the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee he (Ellender) had thoroughly reviewed the intelligence budget and eliminated all waste and duplication. The Chairman said it was not reasonable to make such an assumption. He added that he was as concerned as anyone about the size of the intelligence budget and he thought the cuts that had been made in it were an indication that the Subcommittee was moving in this direction. He said they intend to do more in the future. Senator Symington said he intended to take this issue to the floor of the Senate. Senators Milton Young and Margaret Chase Smith commented that if the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee were increased more than the present five members, they would withdraw from the Subcommittee.



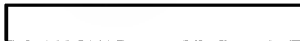
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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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